Kansutoppu!

(かんすとっぷ!)

Arc 04

Rachimu

(ラチム)

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Original Story can be found here: Link

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Chapter 20: The Situation of the 3 Sisters (Part 1)

[There are a lot of <Wild Squirrels> wolfing down our Poporu fruits so I want them to be exterminated. There's a vast amount of them so I'll need a lot of Adventurers to deal with this.]

[Koiwa Plantation]

(TL: アライ リス)

The Poporu fruit. An exterior that looked like a peach with an interior giving off a sweet smell. A soft fruit, with a faintly sweet flavor reminiscent of a carbonated drink. This is what the Koiwa Plantation was growing.

The plantation at a glance was spacious; so much so that I couldn't tell how large this place actually was.

There really isn't a way for one person to cover this much ground.

Due to this, there are a lot of adventurers other than us working together to exterminate the monster called <Wild Squirrel>.

[Wild Squirrel x4 appeared! HP:24]

[Ryua attacked! Damage Average:50119! Wild Squirrel x4 was defeated! HP:0/24]

The monster itself is not a big deal.

Even the <Cave Rabbit> may be stronger than this, but these might be a bit difficult on adventurers who just started holding a sword.

The problem is in their numbers, just looking around the area there was over 30 of them.

It seems that their breeding ability is high so if you just leave them they will quickly multiply.

At first I was in high spirits and was hunting seriously but the remaining number is just too high, I'm tired of hunting them already.

Now that I think about it, this quest is for C ranks so the difficulty should be a bit higher than what we're used to.

I wonder why we ended up taking this quest…

"The plantation's production is suffering so the market price of this fruit is rising really high~!"

That's right, it was Roel.

Clearly her participation was influenced by her gluttony.

Besides the Poporu fruit we had also been shopping for strawberries and apples since they were her favorites. Her eyes sparkled whenever she saw those fruits.

The allure of fruit charmed me so I decided to participate even though the monster count was troublesome.

Of course, I could instantly take care of all the <Wild Squirrel>s.

If I used magic they would be wiped out. But the plantation would be obliterated as well. That idea was rejected.

Even though the easy way was rejected, I'm still serious about exterminating every one of them even if means running around the entire plantation.

(TL: しかし 、それ で なく ても ボク が本気で 農園 を 駆け回れ ば そう 時間 はかから ない。)

"Ryua-chan, make sure not to defeat them all! There are beginner adventurers here too you know."

If she hadn't said that then I probably wouldn't have noticed.

For the beginners this is the perfect chance to level up. They won't just let someone steal their prey before their eyes.

Seems like I'll have to continue but hunt them slowly.

"Hii~!"

Inexperienced adventurers were carelessly surrounded and raised hysteric shouts.

'I'm not going to just let that happen!' I thought as I saved them.

Those squirrels were completely erased without a trace remaining. Brandishing my new sword, the adventurers were dumbfounded for a while but eventually said their thanks.

"Are you by chance Ryua-san? Waaah, she's smaller than I thought!"

I resumed my hunting pace when a party of 3 girls came to talk to me.

I wonder how they know my name?

"The rumors said that it was a girl that caught Grundom, it was nice to hear. Even though we are both girls, there's an amazing difference between us. We decided to work harder."

I see, it seems that the case of Grundom had spread more than I thought.

I wonder… it seems this D rank party of girls was looking at me as if I was a star of hope.

(TL: Dランクのこの女の子パーティには希望の星に見えたのだろう。)

These girls are still beginners at this.

Saying that, I'm still a C rank so I wonder if its fine to be pleased about receiving praise…it's not a bad feeling though.

Before I had realized it, the number of the squirrels had declined to near zero.

Everything was completed by the afternoon.

The head of of the Koiwa plantation was earnestly wiping of the sweat from his face with the towel while thanking us a lot of times.

"No, everyone we are truly thankful! It's thanks to you people that the crops weren't completely destroyed!"

All the staff of the plantation bowed their heads.

"So then, it's fine to take as much fruits as we want right?!"

The voice with no discretion belonged to Aude.

So this guy also participated…it would have been good if I had mistaken him as a squirrel. I might have killed him.

That dark thought instantly passed through my head.

"It's fine, it's fine, but of course there will be a limit to it. The only exception is that you absolutely must not take the fruits designated to be shipped for business."

Gulp

There were someone who swallowed their saliva.

…one of them was Roel.

Compared to during the hunt, the scenery right now is peaceful.

The adventurers had been swinging their swords in a frenzy to kill the squirrels, and now they're going nuts gathering fruits.

Before long, a questionable amount of fruit from the plantation had been eaten to the point of near exhaustion. I was curious about how Roel was eating them.

"Ryua-chan, aren't you going to eat?"

"Roel, first off you should really be eating the fruit with your right hand since it'd be easier to gather with your left."

(TL: 「ロエルはまず右手に持っているぶどうを食べてから手を出したほうがいいよ」)

Even though I have already eaten plenty of it, this girl is still eating.

"Yo! Looks like you guys are doing fine!"

A noisy person came to talk to us.

Aude was swinging his basket of fruits with one hand and making a rude entrance while approaching us.

"Well, I have also been working hard you know. I'm finally level 7. If I remember right you are at level 6, right? Well, work at it! Being a hard worker is the best way to achieve things."

"Yes, we will work hard."

Was she being honest or was she trying to deal with him? I don't know what Roel was trying to accomplish.

We had been passing the time nicely up until now, though normally you wouldn't think someone would stay here this late…I wonder what this guy is going to start yapping about?

When we had finished the ore mining quest she had leveled once again to 10.

"Ah, I wanted to see you! Ryua-san!"

The group of 3 girls from earlier found us.

They were carrying one basket of fruit.

"About the Grundom extermination, is it fine to ask about what happened?"

"Eh, it's fine, the subjugation or the ore excavation…"

"Should I tell you about my astonishing episodes? The 'Injured Person Rescuer' volume!"

"No need."

Aude received a cold reply.

"Roel and I are still only at C rank ourselves, is there really any difference between us?"

"There is a difference! We're still only D rank and at level 2. The whole time we were at <Avangard Cave>'s 2nd floor was really dangerous for us. When we were attacked by a group of bats we ended up using all of our recovery items…it was a boon for us when Ryua-san's party dealt with Grundom. If he was still there and found us…I wonder that we would have done…"

"I thought about giving up, but I really wanted to hear all about the exciting adventures that your party has gone on!"

Each of the girls were opening their mouths and praising us.

The girl with proper manners is Ai, the cheerful and energetic one is Mai, and finally the small one who hasn't talked yet is Mi. It seems they are sisters.

Their classes respectively are: Axe Fighter, Archer, and Healer.

One by one they introduced themselves.

For such a slender girl to carry a heavy axe….she might be overdoing it.

Now that I think of that, I took a glance at them while hunting and noticed that they couldn't hit the nimble <Wild Squirrel>.

I wonder why they couldn't…? Perhaps I shouldn't think about it?

(TL:何か 理由 がある の か、それとも何 も考え ていないのか 。)

“Mi-chan, you’re a healer right? Same as me!”

Roel gave off an air of familiarity when she spoke, but Mi ended up hiding behind her older sister.

I wonder if that’s a shyness suitable for her age…

“Since you’re aiming to be A rank, you’ll eventually have to challenge the A rank ‘Status-Up’ examination, right?

“‘Status-Up’ examination?”

“To become an A rank you have to take the ‘Status-Up’ examination that is held once every year. You need to pass it on your first try since you don’t get a second chance to take it. There are B rank Adventures receiving permission from the Guild every year, it seems that no less than 500 adventurers are gathered there.”

I heard something like that before…

Whenever the topic of that examination comes up, ‘Gene Machine’ comes out.

I think it’s a quest that can only be handled when you become an A rank.

“Since we are still just C rank this talk is a little premature.”

“That’s right but…I don’t want to take a test. I wonder why they would do something like that.”

“You will be recognized as an A rank by the Guild located in the Kingdom. Just that in itself is important you know.”

Mai made a dispirited face when she was told about that.

I wonder if I could pass it even if I can’t really perform well in regards to reading or writing.

“The examination every year is…hmmmm, what is it?”

Mai’s hand was being tugged and pulled by Mi.

To hear what she was saying, Mai leaned over.

“Ah, look at the time…Ryua-san, Roel-san, we have some urgent business so we will be leaving immediately. Sorry.”

“That’s right, we don’t enough time to play…”

The 3 sisters left the plantation in a haste.

From the speed they took off at, I guess it’s really urgent business.

It was like the peaceful mood we had earlier was a lie.

“Weren’t they such a weird bunch?”

“Yeah, but I hope those girls will continue to work hard.”

Today we went home carrying only a single basket full of Poporu fruit.

///Gantetsu’s POV+3rd person POV///

“Fu~~…that was tiring.”

While walking in one of the long corridors of the castle, Gantetsu was feeling tired.

That mysterious monster subjugation.

It’s more ferocious than it looks, even I who had piled up a lot of experience was played with.

I wonder how many monsters like that exist…?

I shouldn’t say this, but I don’t want to fight it again.

If I wasn’t an A rank I wouldn’t have been sent out to hunt it.

I wonder if it’s fine to think something like that…

I had many dreams in the past of being an adventurer and choosing this path.

(TL: かつて は多くの 夢を見 て 冒険者 の 道 を選ん だはず 。)

Am I just a convenient tool for the Kingdom now?

“That monster, I wonder where the heck it came from.”

“It’s fine to not think about it, you know~”

Before Gantetsu had noticed, Xinbu was behind his back.

Reflexively Gantetsu turned around.

“Are you going to end your life as a normal human~? Gantetsu-san~”

(TL: 「今 の で一回人生終 わったっしょ 。ガン テツさん 」)

“Stop joking around.”

“Temporarily stopping work as an A rank, such a thing is unforgivable Gantestu-san~, but the other day at Kwinmill you apparently did something~?”

“What are you trying to say?”

“It was a result born from a single person. It usually takes 5 people to something like that in this field. Despite that, what did you do? You did something like exterminating a <Poison Salamander> during your free time?”

“That was something urgent. I couldn’t just ignore it.”

Suddenly the distance between Gantestu and Xinbu shrunk, and Xinbu lightly grasped Gantestu's chin to lift it.

It was as if Xinbu didn't notice Gantestu glaring at him while he was stroking his chin.

"So…are you saying all that I need to do is show my true ability?"

The eyes inside the gaudy glasses shone followed by Gantetsu groaning.

"Then I'll go and finish 3 things~. How about yourself, how many will you do? Aren't you an A rank? Or is this your way of saying you're getting old~?"

"S-sorry…"

"You should already retire as a soldier~"

Just as Xinbu said, at Kwimill I wasn't able to produce many results.

But, it's true that I can't let the <Poison Salamander> incident slide.

Originally, I should've been an adventurer.

Yet my country is working me hard.

This Xinbu is a genius. In just one year after he started as an adventurer he passed the A rank 'Status-Up' examination, and just like that he joined the elites.

Since I was young, I steadily made up my way until I grew into this miserable state.

It's not only that, Xinbu also likes to say whatever he wants and I'm not able to refute it.

I don't want to feel inferior, but I know I can't win against that man.

My heart has long since admitted its defeat.

"There was that time I had to retrieve the head chief, he was an old man like yourself."

(TL: 「あとの 一匹 はあの 顔 長兵 士長 が回収し たみ たいっしょ 。対し て ジジイ は」)

When Xinbu had finished talking, Gantetsu returned to walking.

Xinbu was looking at his back as he walked off.

"I'm such a miserable A rank…"

After Gantetsu walked far enough, the pink man let out his finger and then once again disappeared from the corridor.

* * *

Monster Book

[Wild Squirrel HP:24]

As a group, they frequently inflict serious damage to crops.

Its sharp fangs can even crush nuts.

Its breeding ability is very high, if you don’t completely exterminate them they will quickly multiply.

Chapter 21: The Situation of the 3 Sisters (Part 2)

We found ourselves at the <Strange Plains> where we had fought the <Poison Salamander>.

We came here after accepting a quest from the Tool Shop to gather materials, I hadn't realized how large the plains were.

I think someone could get lost in here and never find their way out…

Even though the danger level is 6, the sheer size alone looks like it would be enough to finish you.

There were certain flowers that only bloomed here.

We came here to collect drug ingredients. The Tool Shop seems to hire adventurers for this quest every time the flowers bloom.

I know how many we need to gather, but the amount is rather large.

[Man-Eating Flower appeared! HP:44]

In addition to that, unneeded flowers come by every so often.

Although it eats people, why does it bloom at such a remote place…?

'It's going to be burned by Roel', and as soon as I thought that, the monster caught fire.

[Roel used Fire Rod!]

[Man-Eating Flower received 233 damage!]

[Man-Eating Flower was defeated! HP:0/44]

"Roel, amazing…"

When we stopped by the weapon shop yesterday, we had asked Kozow about the Fire Rod and from what he said it seems the flame effect is only a low grade magic. The monsters shouldn't be defeated by a low grade magic though, even if it is exploiting a weakness…but Roel was still mercilessly burning the monsters.

"It's because these monsters are really weak to fire."

Roel said that, but there isn't even an ash left where the monster burned.

Because she's controlling her magic so well, I think she just has naturally high magic power.

As we left the scene of the crime Roel was happily humming a song.

For a girl to sing after burning something so mercilessly…is a unique scene.

Though I can't speak, pot calling the kettle black.

“Hey, isn’t there a lot of flowers that way? Let’s gather over there.

“We can gather flowers while taking care of the monsters.”

Saying those words, Roel was tightly holding onto her Fire Rod and anxiously waiting for a monster to appear.

I unexpectedly saw her make an aggressive face…I shouldn’t tease her too much.

“Ok, is this much fine? Adding Roel’s amount to mine, we have quite a bit.”

“I can’t carry any more than this. Cynthia-chan from the Tool Shop will surely be pleased with this much.”

“T-that is!”

In the distance I saw 3 adventurers fighting a Tiger-like monster.

It was the 3 sisters.

As the tiger got close, I realized I hadn’t seen it yet. It’s probably a floor monster.

If that the case, it’s not an opponent that those 3 can take on.

[<Plains Runner> appeared! HP:565]

(TL:草原を疾駆する者)

“Tsuuuu!”

[Ai attacked! <Plains Runner> quickly evaded!]

The large tiger evaded Ai’s large axe and didn’t miss the chance presented by her backswing.

The beast attacked Ai with its sharp fangs.

[Mai fired Double shot! <Plains Runner> quickly evaded!]

Ai approached the <Plains Runner> and aimed at it while Mai released arrows towards its face, but the attacks ended up being evaded and made a dry sound as they hit the ground.

The <Plains Runner> changed its target to the one who was releasing the arrows.

“W-what should we do!? How can we win against this!?”

Mai was shouting and lost her composure. The <Plains Runner> ignored her yelling and rushed at her with a speed she couldn’t react to.

Just as it began to bite Mai’s head off it realized something was wrong with its body.

The <Plains Runner> had been cut into two, and it gushed blood as it collapsed onto the ground.

[Ryua fired Sonic Ripper!]

[<Plains Runner> received 224028 damage!]

[<Plains Runner> was defeated! HP:0/565]

“Good thing I made it in time.”

I’m glad I hit the monster from that distance.

Mai fell to the ground as her strength left her.

“Ryua-san! For you to come to our aid…”

Ai rushed over to me full of thanks but out of breath.

It seems the youngest one, Mi, was really scared. She was just sitting on the ground.

“That monster is a floor monster right?”

“Yes, if Ryua-san hadn’t come to help us, we would have been in trouble…”

“You’re unbelievably strong…Ryua-san, just what are you…?”

Mai was surprised when she looked at the corpse of the tiger that had been cut in two.

“Are the 3 of you here for a quest?”

“Yes, we came here for the flowers that the Tool Shop wanted.”

“Really? We’re doing the same quest then. So, did you find some?”

“We got a fair amount…hey, for you two to gather that much, just as I thought you’re really amazing…”

Taking a quick look around, there doesn’t seem to be much left we could gather.

I don’t know if it was that monster’s fault, but these girls seem to be having a really difficult time.

* * *

After we went to the guild to deliver the items and settle the quest, the 3 sisters invited us to their house as a thank you for saving them.

We walked through the streetways of Kwimill for a while until we reached a one-story house made of bricks.

It seems a little large for just the 3 sisters to live in.

“Sorry, it’s not much but…”

As she said that, we were presented with Poporu juice and a pancake as dessert for later.

I was entranced by the sweetness of this juice, I didn't expect it to be this delicious.

Roel looks like she wanted to ask for another one, but it seem she still she has some restraint.

"Ryua-san, why are you so strong? I can't believe that you are just a C rank."

"Mm, I wonder why?"

It's because I trained at the <Caves of Hell>. I wonder if I should tell them about it?

Tolppo believed my story easily, but I wonder if these girls will as well?

"My mother thought I would achieve great things and gave me her bow, but it seems I'm not that good with it."

"As for me, my father gave me his axe…but the size is absurd. This is too big for a woman to swing comfortably."

I heard "Teehee" come from the mouths of those 2, it seems they were bashful.

It seems the youngest is done mulling over what had happened. She unsteadily approached Roel and I.

(TL: 末っ子は失禁の処理を終えたのか、ひょこひょことボク達のところへ来る。)

"……thank you."

She bowed and quickly retreated behind her sisters who were sitting on their chairs and completely hid herself.

I think that a child being an adventurer is just unreasonable…

Are her older sisters okay with her going through the scary situations an adventurer faces?

Well, I say that but I was even younger than her when I was surviving in the <Caves of Hell>…

At that time I was…huh? I wonder what I did back then.

I…wonder why I can't even remember a little bit about when I was that young?

"That was delicious! Thanks for the meal!"

"You're welcome. Even though you are the ones that saves our lives, this is all we can do for you. Sorry…"

"I didn't save you for this, so don't worry about it. Though, why did the 3 of you become adventurers?"

"OOOOOOIIII!"

Suddenly we heard an angry yell from outside.

I realized that the 3 girls had frozen expressions on their faces.

“This months quota, are you able to pay it?”

“Onee-chan…”

Mai was looking to Ai for help, but Ai was calm.

No, that’s wrong. She probably just appears like that on the outside.

Ai thought about something for a short while and then slowly opened the door.

Outside was a middle aged man with a white writing brush-like beard and several armed men.

Next to Brushbeard stood an expressionless guy with a slender sword.

I was thinking about how much you would need to bend the slender sword to break it…

I was excited by the sword since it was really interesting to look at, but I should be focusing on the situation right now.

“Oh! Oh! Since you’re here, quickly come out and pay. I came here to receive this month’s quota.”

“…Yes.”

“Oooh, well done, well done!…Hmmm? Oh my, oh my! It’s not enough!”

“We’ll definitely pay the rest to you soon.”

“It’s a quota, you know? I understand that you’re having a hard time with your livelihood, but there is a agreement.”

“We’re sorry.”

“Is there anything left from when your parents were alive? You need to take this more seriously…well, doesn’t look there is any other way.”

(TL: あなた達のご両親が生前、残したものですよ。)

Brushbeard stroked his beard while eyeing the 3 sisters like he was licking them.

“Since you can’t pay with money, it’ll have to be with your body.”

“T-that is…”

“If you won’t offer yourself, it’s fine if one of your sisters will.”

“Somehow! We will somehow pay it! Please let us go just this time!”

“Fuuun, no matter how many times you say ‘Just this time'”

Ai was frantically lowering her head.

The other sisters were silently watching what was happening.

“I may look like this, but in business we need to be precise and punctual when dealing with one another. A deadline is a deadline, and if we don’t keep it then we will lose the respect that people have towards us. That much should be obvious, do I even need to explain this to you?”

“Yes, it’s just as you said…”

“Well, I’m not a demon. Just this time, I will wait for 5 extra days. Farewell.”

Brushbeard lead the bad looking men away and they left as a group.

“Will we be able to manage within the 5 days?”

“Yes, somehow.”

“Those people just now, they’re part of the Gametts Firm right? Could you girls possibly…?”

Roel wore a face showing she wanted an answer as she asked that.

I wonder what the Gametts Firm is?

“That’s right. When our parents died, we borrowed some money. Since we didn’t borrow too much the monthly payment quota is manageable, thankfully.”

Mai was worried about Ai and showed confusion as she tried to follow the conversation.

It’s not impossible she said, but she wasn’t even able to pay the quota just now.

“Did you girls become adventurers because of that?”

“Yes, you’re correct. Since our parents are no longer here we decided to cooperate to live. We tried other jobs unsuccessfully since not many places could employ us, so we eventually gave up and became adventurers.”

Their parents are no longer alive….

I know how hard it is to live alone as a child.

Having no one to rely on or confide in is more severe than you can imagine.

“But taking on that tiger was insane. It may have been a floor monster…even I got worried when I saw you.”

“We thought about getting strong quickly to get high paying quests…sorry for troubling you.”

“When we measured our levels today, we thought we could manage it as level 3’s.”

The danger level alone is 6, trying to take it on at level 3 is suicide.

If this goes on, these girls might really die someday.

Anyways, I can't forgive the bearded guy.

"So how much money did you borrow?"

"About 2 million gold…"

"Two million!?"

Roel was shocked as she repeated that number, and I caught her as she fell.

2 million…even we wouldn't be able to pay that off.

But that threat from earlier was too extreme for that amount of money.

(TL: でもいくら借りたお金とはいえ、さっきのはあんまりだ。)

"If the money was paid off, that guy won't be complaining anymore right?"

"Yes, if we pay this month's quota and then pay off the rest they will…"

"Roel, they're in need of help."

"Yes, you're right…it's fine to ask us if there is something we can do to help…Ah, that's right! How about forming a party with us? Hey, Ryua-chan, it's fine right?"

"Y-yes?"

"We will support you to the best of our ability. So, will you let us help you?"

"B-but…"

So it's like that. Such a simple answer.

Even though these girls are inexperienced, if we support them then their skills will improve and they will grow stronger.

They'll also be able to pay their debt off at the same time, so it's like killing two birds with one stone.

"It's fine. Since it's something we can do to help, we'll do it"

"Onee-chan, isn't it fine to depend on them? Honestly, if it's just us like earlier…we weren't able to do it."

"…Then, can you please help us out?"

"For sure!"

We ended up answering in an unusually tense tone for some reason.

Now that we're a large party of 5, what quest should we take?

* * *

Monster Book

[<Plains Runner> HP:565]

A large tiger with a black and white fur pattern.

Its max speed is 300km/h when hunting game.

The jaw of this beast is strong enough to bite through a human instantly.

The only way to escape from this creature is to lure it away with food or use a comrade as bait.

Chapter 22: The Situation of the 3 Sisters (Part 3)

“T-that person! Could he possibly be Seigel-san the Dragon Hunter?!”

As we were finishing the settling of our quest at the counter, Roel had suddenly pointed her finger at a silver-haired man.

His weapon was really unusual, it was a gigantic blade. I never even thought of a weapon like that.

“Cutie-pie did you just call me…? Woah?!”

Seigel pointed at us while doing an exaggerated pose.

‘Cutie-pie’? I don’t understand what that means but I think it’s a word that only this person would use.

“Oou! 5 cuties?! Are you all by any chance my fans?! What do I do? I want to give you my signature but there doesn’t seem to be any time for you to get some paper…so then, how about letting me write it on your weapons?”

“No, its fine”

Seigel who was rambling on and on was completely stopped by that short phrase from Ai.

A no is definitely a no, the reliable older sister clearly said it.

I think its reassuring for the 2 younger sisters.

“You’re the dragon hunter Seigel, right? I didn’t think that you would be here at Kwimill.”

“Roel, is this person famous?”

“Of course he’s famous. He holds the position of one of the top 3 adventurers! There was an article where he was interviewed by the Dungeon Diving Rascals Magazine, you know. It’s impossible for him not to be well known. When he trekked through the Giginja dungeon with a danger level of 60, he was the first in the world able to defeat the <Volcanic Dawn Dragon> alone.”

(TL: my first try of the name was “Explosive Flame Dragon” but when i talked with it with my ED it turned into Volcanic Dawn Dragon if you have any better name for this this is its jp name 暁の爆炎竜) (ED: Explosive Flame = Volcano, and Dawn was in the name. Seems straight forward to me :I)

I wonder if Roel is a fan of this person?

At any rate, it seems he really is famous…but he’s way too overconfident a person.

“So~ what quest are you cuties going to take together? Aaaah, I’d like to teach you a lot of things but unfortunately I have other plans. I’m really sorry, please don’t feel bad.”

“We won’t need that. Ryua-san, Roel-san. How about this quest?”

Seigel was cruelly ignored by Ai and hung his head while she was pretending to continue as usual.

The quest was:

[I want you to collect honey from the <Terror Bee>s in the <Bees Forest>]

[Client: Tool shop Cynthia]

[Reward: 1100G + extra for more honey]

“The <Bees Forest> and <Bear Forest> are related forests, right…? But I’m sure its Danger level is 5…”

“I know that we’re aiming a little too high, but we want to get stronger quickly.”

“I understand, leave it to me.”

By no means was this a promise with no consideration to it. I’m serious about wanting to lend my power to them. Helping them is what I want to do.

“A <Terror Bee> huh…I wonder if I’ll be able to hit them with my arrows?”

Mai looks like she was insecure about the bow and arrows she was carrying.

Mi was cheering Mai on by patting her lower back with her small hand.

“That’s right…mom and dad aren’t here anymore so we promised that we’ll do our best.”

Mi did a strong, encouraging nod.

Her short and fluffy chestnut-colored hair was bouncing as she nodded.

Mai’s waist-length hair was moving in harmony with Mi.

The 3 of them combining their strengths to persists and live on…it’s rather praiseworthy. Seeing them like this makes me want to help them more and more.

“<Bees Forest>! The <Terror Bee> on its own is not a big deal but be careful of swarms. You really need to be careful. The floor monster is called <Violent Nectar Mother>, and it will require extra attention to deal with. You can consider this monster to be the queen of the <Terror Bee>s, it’s rarely seen but if by chance you encounter it, retreat. It’s not something that you girls should fight.”

“Thank you very much.”

“No, I’ll accept your thanks once you come back alive. Just like how it was at Zenbei.”

“Ryua-san, Roel-san. If you’re prepared, should we go?”

The lively and energetic Ai lead us.

I pitied Siegel just a little bit.

* * *

It’s shallower than <Bear Forest>, it would be more fitting to call this place <Bee’s forest>.

But I don’t think I’d even call it a forest. <Bee’s Woods> is more appropriate.

The monsters living here aren’t only <Terror Bees> though.

[<Flying Squirrel of Gale> x2 appeared! HP:34]

Suddenly a flying squirrel came down from a tree.

While it was gliding it fired wind magic at us.

[<Flying Squirrel of Gale> cast Wind Cutter!]

One of the wind blades flew at Mai.

I wouldn’t let something like that reach her so I erased it with wind pressure from one of my hands.

“T-t-thank you……”

“I’ll absolutely protect you, so calm down and properly aim.”

“Yeah!”

Mai took a deep breath and took aim at the <Flying Squirrel> that was gliding from tree to tree.

When the <Flying Squirrel> stopped she released her arrow.

[Mai attacked! <Flying Squirrel of Gale> received 25 damage! HP:9/34]

The arrow was sticking out of the monster as it fell from the tree. Ai struck at it with her axe, not showing any mercy.

[Ai Attacked! <Flying Squirrel of Gale> received 52 damage!]

[<Flying Squirrel of Gale> was defeated! HP:0/34]

“W-we did it!”

“There are still some left! Don’t relax yet!”

Just as those words were spoken, one of the <Flying Squirrel>s retaliated and charged at Ai.

[<Flying Squirrel of Gale> attacked! Ai received 11 damage! HP:20/31]

“Ugh!”

It was tunnel visioning on Ai who had fallen down and started to chant wind magic.

I shouldn't let her be in such a defenseless state any longer. I drove away the squirrel and quickly slashed it to defeat it.

"Mi-chan, please use recovery magic on your sister."

Roel gently urged Mi who was getting flustered.

Using both of her small hands she cast <Heal> on Ai.

"Yeah, you did a good job."

Mi blushed when she heard Roel praising her.

"Thank you…Mi from the start was a shy child, so how…"

"Children tend to get flustered much faster since they don't know what to do. But Mi-chan, you need to make sure that your sisters can hear your voice, okay? Don't feel shy and just say what you need to say."

"…….yes."

Her voice was as quiet as a mouse.

Using all her strength she had shown her determination to us.

Roel was somehow able to handle this shy little girl.

"Thank you very much. Sorry for the trouble…"

Ai stabbed her axe into the ground and her posture faltered.

She was sighing as she was apologizing.

"In combat, you need to stay calm and not be careless. I want you to understand that."

"Okay."

They seemed to be encouraged by those words, and if these 3 follow our advice when they fight…I don't think we'll need the recovery items.

There are many nimble monsters that Ai's axe won't be able to hit easily, like those squirrels.

I'm not going to suggest she stops being an Axe fighter, but we need to find a way to utilize her strengths effectively.

We advanced by pushing through the plants until we encountered a group of bees as big as a human head.

There was something dangling from a nearby tree…if I'm not mistaken that would be the nest of the <Terror Bees>.

We finally reached our goal, but the number of opponents is…

“T-those are <Terror Bee>s? So many…”

Mai swallowed hard.

I was curious as to why the honey had such a high price. It seems it’s because of this.

There’s probably a trick to gathering the honey but I don’t have the patience to think about it.

I recklessly charged the beehive.

[Terror Bee x20 appeared！ HP:36]

The bees came at me all at once.

The countless stingers that came to stab me looked identical to the scorpion’s tail from the cave…I’m not willing to get stung.

The bees rotated around me to cut me off from the group.

(TL: ボクは回転しながら周囲のハチを斬り捨てる。)

I don’t feel even the tiniest bit of fear as they surrounded me and tried to pierce my skin. I cut them all down and some scattered to pieces as they fell.

[Terror Bee x17 was defeated!]

Mere seconds had passed since the fight started, and only 3 were left of the initial swarm.

I wonder how many bees the girls can handle…

It can poison whoever it stings, but maybe like the squirrel from the plantation they might be easy to deal with in very small numbers.

“Hey, it’s your turn now!”

“Fuei?! Ah, yes!”

Ai was surprised by my sudden order, but prepared her axe and ran toward the remaining bees with a determined look in her eye.

“Don’t just swing randomly! Aim at them when they’re in range as they come to sting you.”

Ai silently nodded and seriously focused on the bee as it approached.

The <Terror Bee> moved here and there, circling around as it prepared to attack, and at the last moment as it flew at Ai, she brought down her axe.

Ai only grazed the bee and it counter-attacked Ai who left herself open.

An arrow pierced the <Terror Bee> as it flew at her.

[Mai Attacked! <Terror Bee> received 36 damage!]

[<Terror Bee> was defeated! HP:0/36]

Ai was amazed that Mai was able to bring down the bee with her bow.

Their party is simple, but very well matched.

Only 2 bees were left, and one of them flew at Mai.

“Hiii! I-It’s coming this way!”

“Ai-san! Now!”

The <Terror Bee> didn’t notice Ai who had been slowly closing in behind it, and Ai swung in a straight line.

The bee was magnificently cut into two parts.

Immediately after that the remaining bee stung Ai from behind.

[Terror Bee Attacked! Ai received 6 damage!]

[Ai is poisoned! HP:25/31]

“Ah……..”

Ai began to stumble due to the poison.

This time it’s Mi’s turn to shine.

…is what I thought, but she still hasn’t learned any antidote magic.

“YOUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUU!”

Mai shot an arrow at the bee out of desperation.

Honestly, that shot was better than her previous one.

The bee wouldn’t have died from a single arrow, but this is the one that had been injured earlier and Mai had landed a direct hit this time.

[Terror Bee was defeated! HP:0/36]

“W-won…we won…”

Feeling weak, Mai sat on the ground.

Ai was out of breath and staring at the corpse of the bee.

“You two are stronger than I thought…if it’s like this I think you can probably handle the 2nd floor.”

“It was thanks to you, Ryua-san. If it wasn’t for your precise instructions we wouldn’t have defeated them.”

“That’s true…I was really surprised. Ryua-san, why are you a C rank with such amazing

skills?”

“I’ve only been an adventurer for a short while…”

Rather than explaining everything I just gave a vague answer.

(TL: 説明するには長すぎる経緯なのもあって曖昧な返答になってしまった。)

“Ryua, I’m not really in any position to say this but I think you would’ve already become an A rank if you weren’t paired with me.”

“That isn’t true, you know. I need you with me, Roel. I’ve been saved by you a lot. You’ve also been levelling up at a quick pace recently.”

Everything I said was the truth. Especially about her levelling, I’m really surprised by how fast she’s grown from level 2 to 10.

I think she was supposed to be like that from the start.

“Ryua-chan…”

I’m not sure if she’s happy or embarrassed, but Roel was smiling while looking down.

“Roel-san is already at Level 10…We will also need to work hard.”

Ai stirred and Mai was grasping her Bow tightly.

Mi is…hmm? Mi is?

“Hey, where’s Mi?”

As I said that, the atmosphere froze.

* * *

“Oh? Boy, what are you doing here?”

Seigel spoke to a child who was crying on the roadside.

The child was crying so hard he wasn’t able to talk well.

“Did someone make you cry?”

Seigel knelt down so that they would see eye to eye.

It seemed to give the child peace of mind and he started to talk.

“Papa are Mama were at home, then scary people came…my home…breaking…many things…*hic*…*hic*”

“Scary people…”

Seigel thought about what he heard for a brief moment and then stroked the child’s head.

“Boy, this Onii-san will save you. Onii-san may look like this but I am an A rank adventurer. That means I’m unbelievably strong, you know.”

Now, there are S rank monsters in existence, but Siegel planned on suppressing them one by one.

“Really? Ojisan will?”

“Ah, Onii-san will absolutely save you.”

Siegel was stubbornly emphasizing the “Onii-san” part.

The child lead Siegel to his house. Calling this place destroyed was putting it lightly, the house would be better described as completely demolished.

The walls were in small pieces without any connection to the neighbouring rooms. The pieces were numerous and very spread out.

(TL: 壁がこま切れになり、床や壁も関係なくいくつにもバラバラにされている。)

Strangely enough there wasn’t any furniture.

Seeing both the first floor and the 2nd floor, the house was really in a miserable state.

I think that’s the entrance? Approaching what was left of the door were the child’s parents, tears falling down their faces.

“Can you tell me just what in the world happened here?”

“It’s already the end…everyone we had is now completely gone. Our home was the last thing we could cling on to, but this time it was taken from us as well…”

Siegel wasn’t able to get the reason from them but he was able to make a guess.

He understood that this wasn’t just a normal robbery.

“Is it possibly…debt?”

“W-why do you care!?”

As one would expect, these people weren’t in a state to talk properly after having something like this happen to them.

Giving up on having them tell him, he decided to pry it out of them himself.

“Gametts Firm.”

Just that one word made both the parents flinch and tremble.

Gametts Firm was just recently started up by a guy named Gametts, it’s a rather corrupt company.

It had gathered capable adventurers, had strict security, and was based here in the sticks.

“Be at ease. I will settle all of this. Just be patient.”

“Ha…?”

‘The crying face of a mother isn’t beautiful’.

That secret thought from Siegel had no relation to his decision. He ran towards the Gametts Firm.

* * *

Monster Book

[<Flying Squirrel of Gale> HP:34]

It watches adventurers from above, in the trees.

It attacks those that enter its range, and glides towards them to begin its assault.

Since it can use Wind Magic, beginner adventurers wouldn’t have an easy time dealing with it.

Chapter 23: The Situation of the 3 Sisters (Part 4)

"Is Ryua-san going to be fine?"

"It's Ryua-chan, even she would be fine at <Bear Forest>. Just relax and wait patiently."

* * *

I rushed around the forest at the fastest speed I could muster, searching for Mi.

I've been yelling out her name but there hasn't been any reply.

I had searched the entire <Bees Forest> but was unable to find her.

It may have turned into a worst-case scenario where we wandered into the <Bear Forest>…since it's directly next to this forest it's not an impossibility.

<Bear Forest> and <Bees Forest>…the <Bear Forest> is a deeper forest than this one.

Since tall trees grow there, the deep forest is just like a jungle.

I had passed through the <Bear Forest> once before.

My trek from the <Caves of Hell> to Kwimill had me run through it.

Back then I hadn't know that place had such a name.

This place…it would be apt to say it had a dark atmosphere to it.

I wonder why Mi separated from us?

Better yet, how did nobody notice?

It's too late to worry about it now…but no matter how much I search I haven't been able to find her.

I jumped from branch to branch in the trees to search for her.

I realized that I had stepped on something when I landed on one of the branches.

I looked below me, only to see a long neck.

A large body began to stand up in front of me.

Trying to look like it was scrubbing something off, it shook its head.

[Poison Salamander appeared! HP:1520]

I remembered the time when something like this guy came from Bear Forest to the Strange Plains.

"This time, just be obedient and stay in this forest."

It’d be troublesome to draw my sword so I just kept moving while trying to shake it off.

It was mowing down the trees while raising a fierce roar as it chased after me.

Just how tenacious is this monster? Right then, I had a flashback in my memories.

It was during my trip to Kwimill.

Just like I had done now, I stepped on something.

Even back then, I thought it troublesome and kept moving while trying to lose whatever was following me.

I remember what Gantetsu had said about it.

‘The <Poison Salamander> is a tenacious monster that won’t forget a grudge’.

…No way. That <Poison Salamander> was my fault?

I’m positive I lost the creature…even those large lizards must lose prey here and there.

I wonder how many of them gave up chasing me…

While I was thinking, the <Poison Salamander> had caught up and swung its leg at me.

[Poison Salamander attacked!]

[Ryua received no damage!]

Before the Salamander could step on me I hurled its body and stood up in one smooth motion, continuing my train of thought and movement.

[Poison Salamander was defeated! HP:0/1520]

…it was my fault that those people were killed?

No, that’s impossible.

That can’t be right. Roel would believe me.

Of course she would, she approached me even though I was different from the other adventurers.

(TL: ボク以外の冒険者だって来るはずだ。)

I’m not wrong…am I?

I started feeling dizzy, and I can’t find Mi anywhere.

What should I do? How can I find her?

If something happened to her, the other two sisters will…

“MI-CHAAAAAAAAA~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~N!”

I shouted from the bottom of my stomach.

My throat hurts from all this yelling.

[Steel Bear appeared! HP:831]

"Shut up!"

I swung a single fist at the stomach of the bear.

Its upper body disappeared and only the lower half remained.

[Steel Bear was defeated! HP:0/831]

I shouldn't be wasting my time with these things, not now.

I need to increase my pace of searching this forest.

"If you can hear me, please answer!"

///3rd Person & Mi's Perspective///

Before I had realized it, I was in the deeper part of the forest.

The atmosphere…is different than before.

The thick trees were so tall it looked like they reached the sky and the leaves are layered so heavily that the surroundings were dark.

Right from the start I was opposed to my beloved sisters becoming adventurers.

It was dangerous for me to be alone at the house, so in the end I was permitted to come with them.

(TL: 家で一人でいると物騒な事もあるという事で最終的には許された。)

I was somehow able to use recovery magic from birth, that's why I became a healer.

Mi felt that she was totally neglected.

She wasn't able to fulfill her role and both of her sisters were all over Ryua and Roel…it wasn't pleasant to Mi.

Her heart wasn't happy that her sisters had been stolen from her.

She separated wordlessly from the group for that reason.

But before she had realized it, she was in this forest.

Dreadful monsters lurked in this forest. Mi eventually came to realize the situation she was in.

If she was found by a monster here in the <Bear Forest>, she would lose her life.

She was consumed by fear and become unable to talk.

[Hellbear appeared! HP:1430]

As she stepped on a dry branch, it made a loud cracking sound that drew a monster many times her mass right in front of her.

Saliva was spilling from its mouth, it wasn't going to let this girl escape.

The bear brought its arm down on the girl who wasn't moving, but before it made contact the bear stopped.

It immediately retreated into the forest. The little girl, frightened beyond belief, ran the opposite way.

She thought that she was saved, but that only lasted a moment as she heard something similar to a vibration in the air.

Trembling as she looked back, there was a shadow.

No, not a shadow, it's whole body was black. To the little girl, it was like a mountain.

The shining, golden eyes of the shadow looked directly at Mi.

This wasn't just a monster…Mi understood that much.

That bear from earlier had seen this and ran.

She had thought she heard a cry as it disappeared into the trees…

[<The Violent King of the Quiet Forest> appeared! HP:5046]

This <The Violent King of the Quiet Forest>, rather than calling it the king of the bears, dictator suits it better.

There were traces that it was recently hunting since its claws were dyed with red.

Mi, controlled by fear, couldn't run away.

Something warm was streaming down her thighs.

Mi was unable to stand any longer and fell on her rear.

"He…lp…"

Mustering out her courage she raised a voice.

—-'you need to make sure that your sisters can hear your voice, okay?'

For some reason the words of Roel resounded in her head.

If she raised her voice, who knows who might hear it.

Even if she wanted to talk about something, her words never came out and it was frustrating.

"I want to talk with everyone…"

She didn’t want to die in such place.

Mi opened her mouth and made a very loud shout.

“ONEE-CHAAAA~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~N!”

Just before <The Violent King of the Quiet Forest> ended her life, something jumped in front of her and the arm of the bear was slashed.

///Ryua’s Perspective///

While raising my sword overhead, I realized I was looking at the ruler of the forest.

I was able to save the little girl behind me.

Nobody would want to die in a place like this, it would fill them with regret.

As long as Mi is alive, the sisters can keep smiling.

“It’s going to be okay.”

While looking forward I tried to encourage Mi.

<The Violent King of the Quiet Forest> didn’t raise a cry, rather it just silently glared at me and then charged with both of its arms.

(TL: 暴王は雄叫びをあげる事もなく、ただ静かにボクの体を両腕でさばこうと行動を開始した。)

I feel like this monster is on a different level than what I’ve fought here before.

It’s probably the floor monster.

“Let’s leave this forest quickly.”

I slashed 2,3 times. As I swung my sword against <The Violent King of the Quiet Forest>, its body separated into 3 equal parts.

I figured its pelt would be expensive material so I tried to leave as much as possible intact.

[Ryua attacked! <The Violent King of the Quiet Forest> received 243319 damage!]

[<The Violent King of the Quiet Forest> was defeated! HP:0/5046]

I was going to call Mi and give her peace of mind knowing the beast was dead, but I found her already clinging to me, tears flowing.

“T-th-thank…you…*sniffle*…”

“Even if you hate me, I will still protect you. I don’t want any of you sisters making such a sad face.”

“I don’t…hate…you.”

Her words were fragmented as she cried. I slowly picked up on what she was trying to

say.

With her small and fragile body, I felt enveloped in a tender feeling.

＊＊＊

“Hmmm, are you here to discuss taking a loan?”

“Hey, Gametts-san, there are many people being treated unfairly by you. ‘I came here to pass judgement’ is what I came to discuss.

“Hoho~, no way. Is this a dangerous request from the guild?”

“No, this is a personal matter. The guild didn’t have anything to do with this.”

“Hou~, adventurers are just people who fight, it seems.”

Gametts leaned back and sunk into his soft chair, looking a the A rank adventurer before him like he was nothing.

“A rank and a dragon hunter, was it?”

[Siegel Lv: 66|Class: Dragon Hunter|Rank: A]

“Ah~, so you are that famous Dragon Hunter. I never thought that I’d be able to meet you. Anyways, money that has been borrowed has to be returned, isn’t that natural? How can you call that unfair?”

“There is a family that shed tears because of your actions. That alone is enough.”

“Well, this talk isn’t really going anywhere. So, do you have any evidence?”

“I only need to look for you and arrest you.”

(TL: それはおまえをふんじばってから探すさ)

“You are quite the fool, going so far for something like this…you really are an idiot. Did you come here thinking I would just give up? Zangiri!”

“…….is it fine to kill him?”

Beside Gametts was a man, his body swaying like it was a mirage.

His hair was messy and didn’t look like it had been washed in a while, giving an unclean impression.

His kimono was open down to his chest, it seems he really doesn’t care about how he looks.

“Are you his bodyguard? You sure have the atmosphere of one.”

Zangiri slowly drew his weapon.

“<Kougetsuzan>”

A vacuum of wind slashed at Seigel, he was completely unprepared for it.

(TL: 真空の刃としか思えない斬撃が縦にセイゲルを襲った。)

Moon Ring blade, a weapon from a foreign country.

It was like an invisible ring. It had a rhythm of 2,3,4 as it sliced, cornering Seigel.

He couldn't avoid the attack very well and his chest was bleeding, but it wasn't a big deal.

——this guy is dangerous.

After fighting many formidable enemies, Siegel can judge an opponent's strength.

This ill-mannered person in front of him has killed too many people.

That technique just now was aiming for the vitals.

Those attacks couldn't even be dodged by a hair.

His armor has cuts all over it and blood was leaking from his chest.

"Burst Braver!"

He swung his big sword towards Zangiri, but since the room is small he only did a light chain explosion.

Actually, Gametts had already escaped from the room, not that there was a room now as it was blown to pieces.

There was a scream amid the explosions, but Siegel didn't care anymore.

He can't go easy on this opponent.

Not taking this villain seriously would be a mistake.

That was proven to be true, as there was something like an explosion and Zangiri was right in front of him.

(TL: その証拠に、そんな爆発など目の前に起こってなかったといわんばかりに間合いを一瞬で詰められた。)

'So that's what instant movement is', he thought at that moment.

"<ChiiriSakura>"

As if Zangiri was drawing a crescent moon with his weapon, it passed through Siegel's body.

Blood began gushing like a fountain up into the sky, it looked like cherry petals falling.

"Even an ally of justice…sometimes…gets defeat…ed…"

As Siegel lost consciousness he saw Zangiri staring at him with a blank expression on his face.

* * *

Monster Book

[<The Violent King of the Quiet Forest> HP:5046]

This monstrous bear has a physique many times larger than a Hellbear.

It won’t emit any noise as it assaults monsters and invaders in its forest, leaving them barely alive.

It’s said that this beast savors the first-rate fear the victims experience as it does this.

Chapter 24: The Situation of the 3 Sisters (Part 5)

[Violent Nectar Mother appeared! HP:1211]

"T-th-that is…!"

Mai was pointing with a shaking finger towards the bee. It was much larger than any of the <Terror Bee>s we had seen so far.

It had 8 wings and a stinger as long as its body.

Putting this creature beside an adult male, it's only a little larger. Even so, <Terror Bee>s have an aura that makes you feel like it can easily pierce beginner adventurers.

(TL: 総合的なサイズは成人男性よりもわずかに下回る程度だがテラービーとは一線を画すオーラが新米冒険者に刺すように伝わってきた。)

"Even though we've been able to get the honey…why does it have to appear now? We should retreat."

"What about Ryua-san and Mi!?"

"Ryua-chan and Mi-chan are fine! Let's escape!"

Roel pulled Mai and Ai's hand and started running.

The wings of the queen bee began to reverberate through the forest as it chased them.

"It's so loud! How did we not notice it!?"

"It's too late for that now!"

Ai yelled at Mai, silencing her.

The truth is, there's not much they can do. The queen summoned <Terror Bee>s from the surrounding woods as it flew.

They had to escape from the forest as fast as possible, and they were moving at full speed.

[The <Violent Nectar Mother> manipulated the <Terror Bee>s! The <Terror Bee>s flew in a row!]

They had formed into an ` | ` shape and then charged the girls.

(TL: テラービーの群れは八の字を描いたと思ったら順次並んで三人に向かってきた。)

[All the <Terror Bee>s attacked!]

[Roel received 14 damage! HP: 94/108]

[Ai received 21 damage! HP:10/31]

[Mai received 22 damage! HP:4/26]

[The <Violent Nectar Mother> summoned more <Terror Bee>s!]

The amount of bees doubled. They had already been outmatched before this, but now it's just absurd.

Ai didn't know what to do. She was worried about her sister who was on the verge of death and doing her best even though their escape was blocked. The 3 of them were surrounded.

"Mai! Keep going!"

"O…nee-san…"

The bees were planning their next attack, leaving no time to use <Heal>, Tensing up, Ai stumbled and fell over. The queen bee moved in to capitalize on that blunder.

[The <Violent Nectar Mother> attacked!]

Roel jumped in front of Ai.

The <Violent Nectar Mother>'s long stinger stabbed Roel.

[Roel received 91 damage! HP:3/108]

The stinger was sticking out of Roel's back.

The poison immediately spread and Roel collapsed.

"R-Roel-san!"

"YOUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUU!"

A loud war cry was hard from Ryua who was falling like a meteor from the sky. She brought her sword down on the queen.

* * *

When the queen has stabbed Roel, I slashed at it as I fell. There wasn't even a particle left of it, the queen had been utterly obliterated from the force of the strike. I had even left fissures from the strength of my attack, but I don't care.

Just as I returned, Roel was…

[Ryua Attacked! Critical hit!]

[The <Violent Nectar Mother> received 1363391 damage!]

[The <Violent Nectar Mother> was defeated! HP:0/1211]

"ROEL!"

"I-I'm fi…ne…"

"I'll use an antidote right away!"

"<Cure>…<Heal>…<Heal>…<Heal>…"

Mi had been riding on me up till now, but she had gotten off of me and was healing Roel.

It seems she can use Cure, I wonder when that happened?

At any rate, I had been careless.

If I had arrived sooner, would things have been different?

Should I have just left the gathered honey and let the three of them escape?

I was careless…even though I defeated the monster, I feel nothing but regret.

"Mi-chan, thank you…I'm better now."

Roel was teetering was she stood up. Mi had a very worried expression on her face as she watched.

"Roel, sorry, I…wasn't able to protect you…"

"Ryua-chan protected Mi-chan. That itself is already enough, you know."

Those encouraging words didn't resound within me at all.

If I had more power than this, I could have saved Mi and returned faster…what I have isn't enough. What can I do to get stronger than this?

"I'm sorry, we're still very inexperienced…we only ended up troubling you. I don't know what we could do to possibly apologize…"

Ai was really feeling down about the events that had unfolded and apologized to us.

"You too Mi! You really worried us…"

Mi was shaking her head and trembling.

I wonder if that was her way of apologizing?

Just as I thought, I need to get stronger. Not just me though, all of us.

Since we already got the honey we needed for the quest, we quickly left the forest.

* * *

"Thanks! With this I can make a lot of Royal Jellies!"

The girl from the tool shop, Cynthia, had sparkles in her eyes as she looked at the honey she was holding like a child with a new toy.

"Ah, now that I think about it, are you alright? The floor monster appeared, didn't it?"

"We were attacked but I defeated it,"

“Seriously?! Then, then, maybe you picked up that guy’s stinger?! Kozow-san would be really delighted, you know?”

“The bee vanished so I wasn’t able to.”

“Vani…….what?”

“Well, that’s fine” she said to finish the conversation. Cynthia once again went back to looking at the honey.

It seems like she was only there to finish up her business with us, as she disappeared into the shop right away with the honey in tow.

Royal jelly…just what kind of item is it?

* * *

The inside of the guild was noisy.

It seems that Siegel was seriously injured and was found collapsed alongside some trash.

He was in a state where you could easily mistake him for dead, but it seems he was faintly breathing.

“For someone to be able to give Seigel such a beating…”

“The Heal Station was concentrating on his medical care but even now he still won’t wake up…”

“That guy…that guy ran out of luck.”

It was stirring inside the guild.

The murmurs started to focus on the main topic.

(TL: その呟きの主に視線が集まる。)

“The legendary <Master Swordsman Zangiri>…has revived.”

Clattering and shaking, an adventurer entered.

I thought that he was older than Gantetsu, that old man was carrying his own weapon, while he trembling as he was talking.

He looks older than Gantetsu, and with his weapon in his hand he trembled as he walked.

“Gametts Firm has a bodyguard. It’s…Zangiri himself! That’s right, Zangiri did this!”

“O-old man calm down…”

A female wizard was attempting to calm him down but Oldman didn’t stop.

“That guy killed over 100,000 people when he was alive! He’s been revived to kill

again!”

“Zangiri died over 70 years ago! You should know that! Get a hold of yourself!”

Some of the adventurers were becoming agitated at Oldman, and several people stepped up to kick him out of the guild.

“Roel, the Seigel guy is……”

“Yeah……..I can’t believe it. But Seigel-san…I wonder why he fought that person?”

“It’s probably the bodyguard of that person from Gametts Firm…”

Mai suddenly muttered. There was another man beside Brushbeard back then. He had a changing weapon hanging from his back, and he definitely had a different status and atmosphere than the rest of them.

“B-but if we pay the quota then we don’t have to worry, right?”

It seems Mai was trying to shake off the fear with that.

It’s not like I don’t understand why she’s scared. Someone that dangerous working for the company you owe money to…you wouldn’t be able to rest easily.

“Now then, let’s brighten the mood. Let’s measure our levels!”

Ai wiped out the gloomy mood that had been hanging over us.

“Mine is just going to overflow anyways…”

It seems I’m starting to become timid…when did this happen?

I don’t know what my actual level is, and watching everyone rejoicing about their <Level Up> leaves a bad taste in my mouth.

But seeing Roel happy about her <Level Up> also makes me happy.

“Wa,wa! Mi what did you do?! Your level became 12 in one go?!”

Level 8 is when you learn cure, so it makes sense now…but how did she level so much?

Oh right. I remember now.

Mi was in my party when I defeated the floor monster in the forest.

She was there when it died. That would explain it.

“What what wha~t?! My level is 9!”

Mai was surprised by the result.

I wonder how much of that is from the Bee floor monster.

“It’s one of the ‘7 Mysteries of Adventurers’ right? When in a party, all of them can become stronger at the same time.”

“With just a strong adventurer and a strong opponent, everyone just suddenly got super strong huh?”

“Certainly that’s a good way to level, but the risk is really big. Only your level and body become strong with that method. Yes, you may get new skills and such, but you don’t get the battle experience. There’s no point in growing without that.”

After Mai and Ai, Aude broke in our conversation.

Seems like he’s here again.

“If you fight a strong opponent, the risk of dying will increase. What you’re doing by levelling like that is just risking your life later on, you know? Though who would take such a leech in the first place?”

“That’s not right. You can always gain battle experience later on.”

(TL: 「その通りですね。うまい話なんて早々ありません」)

“Isn’t it?”

Aude was acting exalted as he was talking against Ai who was striking back.

(TL: 得意げに語るオードに相槌をうつアイ。)

Even though Aude is a beginner like us, he knows a lot of stuff huh?

“Since Seigel-san taught you about that yesterday, right?”

As he was made fun of by a male adventurer, Aude made a face like he was being punished for doing something bad.

* * *

Most of the reward was given to the 3 sisters.

They were way too reserved and modest, and we got into a dispute that got old really quickly.

It was a really tiring day. As we went home looking forward to the rest, Roel became curious about the Siegel incident from earlier and suggested that we should visit him.

Seigel was laying down on a bed covered in bandages with a strange tube sticking out.

If we didn’t know we were looking at Siegel, I wouldn’t have recognized him with this appearance.

“So cruel…”

Roel muttered.

Looking a this appearance, it’s a miracle he survived.

“Oji-san, you did this for us…”

There was a kid we didn’t know crying on the side.

Both of his parents were deep in thought while looking at Siegel, and didn’t move the whole time.

“This world is hell…!”

The boy’s father moaned and cried.

Gametts Firm. Zangiri.

For Siegel to end up like this…what reason did he have to fight such a losing battle?

Gametts Firm…for them to drive people into a corner like this, I should just personally….

“…chan! Ryua-chan!”

“Ah, yes?”

“Why are you making such a scary face? No way, Ryua-chan…”

“Let’s leave.”

Before Roel caught up with me I was already at the exit of the Heal Station.

* * *

Monster Book

[<Violent Nectar Mother> HP:1211]

The Queen of the <Terror Bee>s.

It will rarely show its face, and as long as you don’t touch its nest it’s rather harmless.

However, if you do mess with the nest, the Queen’s fury will befall you without mercy.

The honey from this bee is one of the raw materials for high grade recovery medicine. Its stinger is also a priceless material for weapons, but only veteran adventurers can get it.

Chapter 25: The Situation of the 3 Sisters (Part 6)

"Now since today is the promised date, I would like to receive the quota payment."

Gametts had brought along his rather repugnant men to the residence of the sisters,

Beside him was Zangiri who seem to be looking at the empty sky.

"Yes."

"Fumufumu~, well let me just confirm…let's see here. Oh? Ai-san, this isn't enough."

"N-no way?! Take another look! With the interest it was supposed to be precisely 5000G!"

"No no, 5000G is not nearly enough, you know."

"But we had talked about it before! The monthly quota should be 5000G right!?"

Gametts forced a sigh while the sisters glared at him.

"You need to remember that you haven't been able to meet the quota before, and it was added onto this payment to make up for the loss. In short, the interest went up by 5%. You understand now, right?"

"But Gametts-san, you extended the settlement date yourself…and there was no mention in the contract! Why did it suddenly change now?"

"That's right, no such thing was written there!"

Mai started to get angry and prepared to enter battle with the men in front of her. They just sneered at her and Mai's intuition told her to stop.

She got goosebumps and stepped back.

"About that…I shouldn't have to explain why, you should understand."

"I totally disagree. If that was the case then why wasn't it written in the contract?"

(TL:「納得いきません。それならば契約書にそう記しておくのが道理です」)

"Quota, interest. All of them were written there. Please don't misunderstand and then try to justify yourself. Now, hand over the payment. The total quota for this month is 23250G."

"That's fraud!!!"

"That's what I should say to you. If your parents had done their job properly two years ago and escorted us, my lovely subordinate wouldn't have died. Boasting about being capable and then failing so is a cruel thing."

"Ugh…"

The 2 of them kept silent.

Due to the debt they owed to the Gametts firm, both parents accepted the quest to be the bodyguard of Gametts to repay their loans.

The heavy burden those two had been carrying was now being dropped onto their daughter's shoulders.

(TL: 二重の責務が重くのしかかり、今日に至る。)

"I've been looking over you like a guardian up until now, but I can't wait for these payments anymore. You three are going to pay with your bodies. Hey!"

Gametts instructed his men.

The men rapidly moved and started to seize the sisters.

"Hiii….!"

The men pinned down Mi and bullied Mai.

"Please leave my younger sisters alone! I'll do anything! Please!"

"Anything…?"

Ai was prostrating herself to Gametts who was staring at her suspiciously.

＊＊＊

"Now that I think about it, aren't the sisters paying the quota today?"

"Mm. I wonder if we were able to help them out enough."

Quite a distance from our abode was the house of the sisters.

Every morning we would go to their house and travel together to the guild.

It's only been 5 days since that started, but it's now a routine for us.

In front of the house we found Mi and Mai crying.

At a glance you wouldn't know what happened, but I was able to take a guess.

"Mai-chan, Mi-chan! Hey, what happened?"

"Onee-chan is…Onee-chan…in exchange for us…"

"What happened to Ai?"

I suddenly noticed that Ai was the only one not here.

I don't know why, but it definitely had to do with the Gametts Firm.

I was boiling up just imaging their motive.

"Why…this is different from what we were told…"

From within me something was boiling and starting to flow out.

"No more…just what did we do to deserve this…Onee-chan…Onee-chan…"

Their tears fell onto the stone paving and the ground sucked them right up as if they never fell. It's almost like the sisters were the tears that weren't able to reach their sister who was taken away.

"This is so cruel…just how many of those payments were left…"

Roel was clenching her teeth.

She was grasping her staff so tightly you could see blood trickling down.

"I will do something about this. For sure. Please, be at ease you two…"

I grasped Mai's hand and firmly vowed.

"Ryua…san, save onee-chan…"

Mai's disheveled hair was swaying and her face was a mess from the tears.

So, it seems Gametts drove the sisters into a corner to break the rules.

That brush beard planned it to be this way from the start.

"Ryua-chan, we need to go quickly…"

"Roel, wait here."

"No, please-"

"Wait. Here."

After the second time Roel fell silent. I was surprised that I could be this cold to her.

I wonder if Seigel felt like this…and then he was defeated. I'm sure he regretted it. That brush beard……..no Zangiri.

That man is extremely strong, but I don't care.

* * *

"Fufufufu…….Ai-san, you don't have to be that disappointed. As long as you're here I will give you anything you want."

Gametts' own room and office room. There was the pelt of a beast as a carpet, on the oblong desk there was a glass skull with pens stuck in it, and directly beside that was a fully spread out feather mattress king-sized bed.

Ai had been sitting in the middle of it since she walked into the room and hung her head the whole time.

"Were you worried I would sell you off to someone? No, no, who would ever sell such a prize."

"Especially a cute girl like you." he added as he looked at Ai, his eyes like a snake

looking at a mouse.

Ai's body flinched and she backed off.

Gametts was on all fours and slowly cornering Ai.

"That, that is…"

"Didn't you say you would do anything? Or were you lying? Should I call my men to get the two I left behind?"

"Please stop!…stop…"

"If that's the case then listen to what I say."

Gametts once again drew near to Ai.

As he put his hands on Ai's shoulders she flinched out of reflex.

"Be obedient. If you react like that again…you understand right?"

"Father…Mother…"

"Your parents are already dead. I would know, since I killed them."

"….eh?"

"Oops~" was all he said said as he covered his mouth with his hand.

It wasn't that big of a mistake since it probably would have become known to her anyway. Gametts once again became talkative.

"Just now, what…?"

"Ah geez! For me to slip up like that…well, its fine. Both of your parents, they were frantically protecting me. That's what you've thought up till now, right? If I let the death of my subordinate become the fault of your parents, I was sure that you girls would forever be burdened as the children of those two. Then all of you would forever be my slaves, it was a plan like that."

"…lies!"

"No, it's the truth. I was the one that killed my 2 subordinates, the monster was merely a means to an end. But something unexpected happened. The beast aimed at my subordinates and your mother blocked the monster's attack. She was fatally wounded and because of the shock your father stopped and became the victim to the monster as well. I don't think you knew about all that, did you? Ah, you are wondering what happened to me? I may look like this, but I trained hard, you know? Because fighting monsters was quite troublesome I just randomly employed a bodyguard. At any rate, in this job there dangerous people going after you at all times. The thought of being hunted hasn't crossed your mind yet, right? Hey, are you still listening?"

Ai was at loss for words. A faint tear ran down her face, and quickly the amount increased.

“You demon…then, from the start we…”

“You cute sisters will forever be my play thi…oops, slaves. If you become one it’s a smaller price to pay. You’re good, but your younger sisters are also very cute. Especially…Mi, was it? I will make sure I pour her full with lots of my love. Hihihihihihihihihi~!”

“You brute…!”

Ai was in a rage, humiliated, and full of grief, She didn’t understand why her parents had to die for something like that.

She wants to kill the pig in front of her right now, but she was powerless. Even now she was unable to speak.

“You of course are also a fine quality thing…you’ll grow into a splendid adult for sure. A bountiful chest, my hand for sure will…hihihihi!”

“Someone save me…save me…”

A sound reverberated through the room as the door was being smashed on.

But when Gametts turned to face the door, it wasn’t there anymore.

It had been smashed into pieces. Being the owner of the room, he was sure that noise had to be the door.

* * *

As I was grasping a guy by his neck, I saw Gammets and Ai on top of the bed. It was good that I made it in time, this guy I had in my hand was groaning.

“G-Gametts-san…run aw-”

Before he was able to finish talking I threw him out in the corridor.

“Gweeh!” he made such a miserable voice as he hit the wall. It seems he fainted.

Gametts wasn’t too surprised, given the situation. He was able to find something agreeable in this situation and then he looked at me while bowing.

“You, certainly we met each other once. I remember 5 days ago, you were at the house of the sisters when we visited. I see, you posses such skills at such a young age.”

“Get away from Ai-san.”

“Fuun, that was quite a crude impression, you know. You just broke in here, how rude can you be?”

Gametts looked like he was evaluating me as he looked at me from top to bottom.

It feels disgusting. It wasn’t nice being looked at like that.

(TL: 気持ち悪い、そうとしかいいようがなかった。)

"Ai-san, this way."

Ignoring Gametts, I pulled her hand. Suddenly a man appeared beside the door and as expected even Gametts was surprised.

"Z-Zangiri!"

In the corner of the room, Zangiri who was called finally started to show some movement.

However I knew from the start he had been there.

When I entered the room I was able to feel a man glaring at me.

It was an inquisitive, detestable stare.

"I have a proposal, I want to fight that girl outside. Otherwise the important place where you work will be destroyed again."

"D-do whatever you want. Now Ai-san, come this way."

Just as he was about to reach her I smashed his hand.

"AGAAAAAAAAAAAAAAH!!!"

"Ai-san, I will guarantee your safety if you come with me."

I ignored Gametts's scream, and he thrust out a demand.

No, it wasn't a demand but rather an order. For this scoundrel to try and compromise in this situation, I really hate this person.

"Za-za-zangiri! What are you doing?! Hurry, hurry up and kill that girl!"

"It looks like that girl wants to go out…but if that's the case then this place will become a battlefield."

"Who cares! KILL HER!!!"

"<Kougetsuzen>"

In the same instant he was ordered, Zangiri released a vacuum of blades.

His blade was rotating while aiming for my vital parts.

I immediately understood something: This guy isn't strong.

If this guy went to the <Caves of Hell>, I think that huge 4-headed dog could defeat him.

…Never mind, that monster was just a low class floor monster. What a foolish idea, thinking this guy could be that dangerous.

I've changed since I left those caves. I still don't mind being hit but now I think `if I take blows then my clothes will get torn, which means we'll need to spend more

money'…in an instant I was in front of Zangiri who couldn't react at all.

I grasped his head and smashed it into the floor.

The wooden flooring was utterly destroyed, and from Zangiri's head a large amount of blood was pooling.

"Gah…wah…"

I don't plan on killing him, but I want him to lie down for a bit.

My business isn't with him.

I leisurely walked over to Gametts who was shaking out of fear.

Chapter 26: The Situation of the 3 Sisters (End)

“Now then…”

Gametts was in a cold sweat as I pinned him with my arm.

While I was thinking of what to do with him since I don’t want to kill him, Gammets glared at me.

“D-d-don’t get cocky!”

[Gammets used <Gold Shower>!]

Countless gold coins were released from Gametts and flew at me.

I was surprised because it was from such a close range, but I just blew them away with one hand.

“Gwuuh! I-I am!”

[Gammets|Lv: 21|Class: Merchant|Rank: None]

“Merchants aren’t made for fighting, but they can be helpful depending on the situation.”

(TL:「戦闘に不向きと言われた商人だが、立ち回り次第では」)

He was being noisy so I gave his head a light tap.

I think I still used a little too much strength since his head was nearly blown off. Gametts fainted immediately.

It seems he had trained his body a little.

That could have turned out much worse.

“Ryua-san…did you come to help me?”

“Yeah. Let’s go back to your sisters now.”

“You’ve done so much…I can’t even imagine how I can repay you…”

“I just want the 3 of you to be happy. I don’t want to see people die anymore.”

Ai embraced me.

It looks like she was terrified. She was crying and repeating her words of gratitude again and again.

Someone stood up behind me.

I turned around and saw Zangiri, his head still gushing out blood, grasping his weapon tightly.

“Do you still want to fight?”

“If you want to defeat me you’ll have to cut off my arms and separate my head from my body.”

“You’ll die fighting with a body like that.”

“Yeah, seems so.”

As he said that I recalled how he felt in my hand earlier.

I felt something off when I threw him down.

It was similar to that thing…

“Old man, are you already dead?”

“Hou, how did you know?”

I had an unpleasant premonition about this situation. It’s like the time at the Ghost Mansion.

This person is already dead, so to speak he’s a <Vengeful Ghost>.

“You died 70 years ago, right?”

“Master swordsman Zangiri…no, human killer was my more famous title. I regretted never meeting anyone stronger than myself. But now…I see you as a worthy opponent.”

“Just for that…”

“I thought you of all people would understand.”

“Shall we finish this?”

“<Kokuu Shuugetsu>…”

(TL: Arc Moon: Heaven’s End)

I had been surrounded by a brilliant vacuum of blades, flowing towards me with the intent to mince.

Being trapped like this isn’t a threat to me, since this attack is like being swung at by a dull blade.

(TL:こんな 刃 もついてい ない のと同じような もの に囲まれた ところ で ボク にとって は何の 脅威 に もなら ない)

I quickly spun around and erased the attack with wind pressure.

“<ChiriSakura>”

(TL: Falling Sakura Blossoms)

Using a pinpoint attack I aimed at the center of his weapon and broke it with my fingers.

However his weapon began to melt into a viscous liquid.from where I attacked it.

(TL:しかし 、折ら れた部分 から 少しずつ 刀身 が実体 化する 。)

I wonder how many other <Vengeful Ghosts> exist…I'm still trying to figure out how to deal with them.

"It seems it'll be possible for me to die again."

"Why are you so concerned about fighting strong opponents?"

"I started to kill at a young age. My parents were killed before my eyes and everything else was snatched away except my urge to kill and kill and kill…Getting stronger and killing faster until I eventually died from a strong enemy. In the end, my reason to live was to kill until I am killed. Although I should have fulfilled my goal, I was still unsatisfied."

Zangiri quietly told us.

His quivering body stopped before I knew it.

"How many decades passed like that, I wonder…? I eventually was exhausted and ambushed."

I didn't interrupt him, I just leaned a little closer to hear what Zangiri had to say.

His story didn't really seem that interesting.

But you should never miss out on listening to a conversation.

Both of this guy's parents died. I caught that much from his tale.

"I revived instantly and slew the ones that killed me. I attacked with the intent to kill. Right at that moment…that was when I felt that I wanted to fight strong opponents."

After he was done talking, he once again readied his weapon.

"However, no matter how far I travelled in this world I never found what I desired. I gave up and rolled over, becoming that old guy's bodyguard. Young girl…no. What is your name?"

"Ryua."

"Ryua…use that longsword hanging on your waist. Show me that you can kill what I have become."

"Old man, you are fine with disappearing?"

"There will never be a more fitting way."

"…I understand"

I drew my sword.

Zangiri seemed satisfied.

I went at him with all my strength.

Zangiri was unable to react just like the last time I charged him.

I cut his corpse with all of my might.

Both his weapon and wavering body were cleanly cut.

"That much…strength…you…as I expected…could do it…"

He collapsed onto the floor and before long he had starting turned into light and slowly disappearing.

"…I will be fine you know"

"I wonder…about…that…"

As he muttered those final words, Zangiri completely vanished.

"I am…"

The regret I felt at <Bees Forest>.

It was a brief moment, but at that time I felt like I needed to be even stronger. I definitely thought that.

In that brief moment…maybe I was the same as Zangiri.

No…even 10 years ago when I was in the <Caves of Hell> I killed many enemies in my pursuit of strength.

Was that it?

Just so that I could defeated that one-winged demon?

Once again my head is getting fuzzy.

"Ryua-san…are you okay?"

Ai had been listening to Zangiri and I talk since the beginning and came over to me.

"Yes…let's head back now."

I extended my hand to Ai, though she paused for a bit before she took it.

I don't understand why I feel anxious.

That can wait, I need to take Ai back to her sisters as soon as possible.

I want to see their smiling faces…

Oh, we turned Gametts over to the Kingdom's security force, he was still out cold.

I have no idea what they did to him afterwards. I entrusted his fate to them.

* * *

“Onee-chan!”

The 3 sisters embraced each other.

It seems Roel had been encouraging them all this time.

“Onee-chan you big idiot! Leaving the two of us to live on alone is overdoing things!”

“……please don’t go anymore.”

“I’m really sorry you two. but if I didn’t…”

The scene unfolding in front of us was radiant.

I, who was only able to escape by myself those 10 years ago, was able to save another person now.

Zangiri’s path…maybe pursuing power leads you to destruction.

Though that very power was what saved them this time.

“Ryua-chan…you are beyond strong, just like I thought.”

I think…Zangiri had too much power. He didn’t have anyone he could trust or rely on and was eventually swallowed by his strength.

“We all lose someone important eventually, but we’re never alone.”

“What was that?”

“It’s nothing.”

I once again looked upon the sisters who were beaming with happiness.

Their tear-stained faces were a thing of the past.

As I looked, I realized Ai was deeply lowering her head again.

“Ryua-san, our gratitude alone will never be enough to make up for all that you’ve done for us. I may not be able to do much, but if you are ever in trouble, I will lend you all of my power.”

“Me too! Me too!”

Mai was being energetic while Mi was silently bowing.

However, I had something I wanted to know.

“Will the three of you continue to be adventurers, even after all of this?”

“Yes. Thanks to you and Roel we truly understand what it means to be an adventurer. You don’t have to worry anymore.”

“Fufu” Ai laughed, I can’t feel any of the despair she had in that man’s room.

I'm a little worried about them, but didn't their level rise quickly in one go?

"If something were to happen again, we will lend our strength to you. Please don't do something rash by yourselves."

"No problem~! Even though we've been relying on you thus far, we can't keep going like that forever. My skill with this bow has risen quite a bit so we'll be all right!"

"It seems that having your level rise doesn't change much about your actual skill. Aude-san said that before."

"Didn't Aude hear that from Seigel? Oh! I wonder if he's woken yet?"

"Let's check when we return."

The sisters said their farewells and we headed to the Heal Station.

"It's been a long time since the three of us went, but let's visit Father and Mother's grave."

I heard Ai's gentle voice from behind me.

I wonder if AI will tell them the truth.

It seems she doesn't have any intention to.

Though I think she will eventually.

* * *

The room hadn't changed since our last visit. Tube sticking out and covered in bandages, Siegel had his eyes closed.

"Just as I thought…he still hasn't recovered."

"Hey, Roel, is it forbidden to use your <Heal> on him?"

"I think a lot of people have already done that, and this Heal Station has a famous High Priest. I heard that person already used <Heal> on Siegel, so for me to do it…"

"But you still haven't tried to do it?"

"Yeah, um…"

Roel used her gentle <Heal> on Siegel.

However, Siegel's eyes stayed closed. There wasn't any apparent change.

"Just as I thought, it won't-"

Just as she gave up, Siegel's fingers slightly moved.

"W-what? Just now, didn't he move?"

"Eh? That can't be…"

“Try healing him again!”

Roel used <Heal> on Seigel once again.

This time his eyelids moved a little.

“…ah”

His lips briefly moved.

He mustered all of his strength to leak out a faint voice.

“Seigel-san?”

“….is”

“Is he conscious!?”

“…-re is. this place is…”

Though his eyes stayed closed, his mouth was moving here and there.

Roel continued to heal Siegel in disbelief, trying to infuse him with life.

Before long, his eyes opened and he stared at the bright lights before him.

“…am I still alive?”

“Yes!”

“I see…”

“Should I call the staff here?”

“No, that’s fine……more than that, please listen to me…About the Gametts Firm.”

“I managed to do something about them.”

Seigel was at a loss for a while.

The first time I met him, he gave off a feeling of overconfidence. But right now he has quite the woeful expression.

I spoke about what happened. Siegel only had one thing to say.

“Is that true? I wasn’t able to do my job well…sorry…haha…”

“T-that’s not true!”

“You don’t need to be like that. I wasn’t able to even hit that katana-wielding bastard on his hand or leg. Hey, Ryua, what are the <Roots> of your strength?”

“<Roots>?”

“Why are you so strong? What did you do?”

“That’s because I fought in the <Caves of Hell>…”

If I say something about that place, will I regret it?

‘He won’t believe me anyways, so I don’t need to worry’ was what I was thinking.

“<Caves of Hell>…?”

“Just as I thought, you don’t believe me either.”

“No, I think I heard something like that somewhere.”

Siegel smiled, showing his white teeth. “Regardless, it’s fine” he said, and the topic was changed.

“I already delivered Gametts to the Kingdom’s security force,so it’s probably already the end for him. An investigation was started at their office and proof of their fraud was found. It’s not coming back.”

“With this, no one will have to cry anymore, right?”

“Ah, I wonder if that family is smiling now…I haven’t apologized properly to those people. I was unable to lend my assistance to them.”

“Aah! You’re up?!”

A boy was standing in the entrance to the room.

Behind him were his parents.

“Ojisan! You’re better now!”

“Not quite, haha…I still have to go through some more treatments.”

“Seigel-san, for you to end up like that for us…”

“If you want to say your thanks, direct it to this tomboy. I ended up getting the tables turned on me.”

As Seigel explained it to the parents, the family of 3 seemed to understand and said their words of gratitude to me.

Only the boy was looking at Siegel with a pleased face.

A staff member came by and saw Siegel was conscious and talking. He quickly ran over to him.

“Se-Segeil-san?”

“Yo, it appears that I was saved.”

“Hahahahahaha!” Siegel laughed more than he should have.

Before long the staff had gathered and an there was an uproar for a while.

It became a discussion of this and that related to his body, but Siegel was able to settle everything.

<Caves of Hell>.

It’s not a lie that I fought in that place. Even Siegel didn’t know about it.

I wonder why?

What is the danger level there?

What was my level now?

Seigel said that my strength was because of my <roots>.

Suddenly, things changed.

* * *

In a dark basement made of stone.

Candles were lit and a single person was quietly sitting.

On the corroded table was a skull, it looked rather important. A person in a black robe was gently brushing it.

“Ah, it died.”

Even though the person was alone, a grumble was heard.

The person inside the robes had black paint on their white body and a childish face.

“Zangiri, the killer from the east…even though I went through great pains to revive him, it seems he ended up doing nothing in the end.”

(TL:「アズマの人斬りザンギリ。 せっかく、蘇らせてやったのに結局こいつ何もしてないでやんの」)

“Then, how about you make a subordinate with your own hands?”

There hadn’t been anyone else in the basement a moment before, but now a middle-aged man wearing a hat was leaning on the wall.

“At least learn how to knock.”

“Last time I did knock but nobody was here.”

“Were you surprised?”

Robes was mocking the man.

As if replying to that, the man made a large cobra appear in his palm.

“Yeah, I was really surprised.”

“Back off a little. What business do you have with me anyways?”

“At least be a little scared.”

The man erased the the cobra in his hand.

“Anyways, it’s about the status of the surprise attack we have planned for the festival. I was wondering if you’ve finished yet.”

“If you are here for something useless like that, go home. Doing things this way has been quite irritating and I don’t have any good pieces left. Since it’s a big event I want to make sure it’s flashy.”

“Can’t you get the woman that hung herself at her mansion? Isn’t that a good specimen?”

“It was erased before I could get to it. It was probably an exorcist, but it’s the same troublesome fellow that’s been appearing everywhere.”

“How unexpected! I recently encountered the same fellow and my subordinate was easily killed.

Once again the man took out a large cobra from his palm as an example.

“Of course, since that’s a small fry monster.”

“No, seriously, it was a shock. I thought that I could do them in since it looked like they were just loitering in that dungeon.”

“Did you go there to play?”

“Those guys seem like they’ll be a hindrance. Especially that adventurer I tried to erase. How am I supposed to deal with that lady?”

“If you want to get rid of them just use a stronger monster…jeez I’m tired. I don’t have time for your comedy act, get out.”

“Don’t take too long. The festival starts soon.”

The capped man casually left the basement through the door.

“Fuun…noisy servant. Such an uncivilized beast master. I can’t stand seeing that guy’s stunts. Even so, the festival…”

A smile floated on the boy’s face and once again he caressed the skull.

“So, it’s really dead.”

The boy had an ecstatic expression on his face, his gaze was piercing the ceiling.

“Waaaah…I ‘m jealous…I’m jealous of a corpse…death is the ultimate beauty you know, when will I reach my goal…I wonder if there is a lovely girl being left to die somewhere? Mufu…muhihihihi…”

The boy held the skull in his arms and caressed it endlessly.

Credits

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